



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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November 12, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

1-P November 12, 2014

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION OF
AN EXCESS FUNDS GRANT TO NORTH EAST TREES FOR
THE HAZARD PARK RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT
(FIRST DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$250,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to North East Trees for tree planting at Hazard Park.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Hazard Park Riparian Restoration Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the project.
2. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$250,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to North East Trees for the Hazard Park Riparian Restoration Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant after the

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority assigns its right to apply to North East Trees and when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$250,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for a grant to North East Trees (NET) for the proposed Hazard Park Riparian Restoration Project (Project) at Hazard Park.

The proposed Project involves the purchase and installation of trees and landscape plants at Hazard Park to restore riparian habitat. The estimated total project cost is \$281,150. The recommended Specified Excess Funds will be supplemented with \$31,150 of in-kind materials and labor from the City of Los Angeles and volunteers from the surrounding communities.

MRCA, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries under the 1996 Proposition, will assign its right to apply for the \$250,000 to NET.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant, after MRCA assigns the its right to apply to NET and when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project, if applicable. It is further recommended that the Director be authorize to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by improving and enhancing recreational activities in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, not to exceed \$250,000, is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 have encumbered all such funds before they may receive grants of Excess Funds. MRCA and NET each meets this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining, each fiscal year, the amount of funds

available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended acquisition would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for Specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award grants to the various grantees when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide for governing the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will also appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. RPOSD is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which includes purchase and installation of trees and landscape plants at Hazard Park to restore riparian habitat, is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Section 15304 (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 4(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project provides for new landscaping.

The proposed Project will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed Project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed Project's records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009. The Grant Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD, but are required for the enhancement of safe and accessible recreational opportunities in the First Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please return one conformed copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division; and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

11/12/2014

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", with a stylized, flowing script.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WO:tb

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors